



U.S. Supreme Court's SB 1070 Decision

Remarks by Gov. Jan Brewer
June 25, 2012

Good morning.

From the moment I signed into law SB 1070 - the [Support Our Law Enforcement and Safe Neighborhoods Act](#) -- Arizona has been preparing for this day.

Because the facts have too often been lost in the rhetoric, let's reflect on what has brought us here today.

Arizona did not ask for this fight nor did it seek out the task of having to confront illegal immigration.

We cannot forget that we are here today because the federal government has failed the American people regarding immigration policy -- has failed to protect its citizens -- has failed to preserve the rule of law -- and has failed to secure our borders.

The failure to secure the border has created the issues we now face regarding illegal immigration -- and Arizona without question bears the brunt of this failure.

We also cannot forget that President Obama and his party had both houses in Congress for two years and could have secured our borders and fulfilled the promise to fix our broken immigration system.

They failed.

In response, Arizona had no other choice but to act -- and Arizona did so by following, not changing, federal law.

Instead of devoting resources to suing states like Arizona, the federal government should have spent time, money and energy on fixing the problem.

So, today is a day when the key component of our effort to protect the citizens of Arizona – to take up the fight against illegal immigration -- in a balanced and constitutional way -- has UNANIMOUSLY been vindicated by the highest court in the land.

The heart of SB1070 has been proven to be constitutional. Arizona's and every other states' inherent authority to protect and defend its people has been upheld.

I prayed for strength and prayed for our state before I signed SB1070.

I did so because I firmly believed it represented what was best for Arizona.

Border-related violence and crime and the significant financial costs due to illegal immigration are critically important issues to the people of our state, and to me – both as Governor and as a citizen.

As I said, this is the day we've been waiting for. And, make no mistake, Arizona is ready.

We know the eyes of the world will be upon us. We know critics will be watching and waiting, hoping for another opportunity to continue their legal assault against our State.

But I have faith in our law enforcement. Our brave men and women in uniform have been trained so that they are able to enforce this law efficiently, effectively and in harmony with the Constitution.

Civil rights will be protected.

Racial profiling will not be tolerated.

SB1070 is equally committed to upholding the rule of law while ensuring that the constitutional rights of ALL in Arizona are protected -- including prohibiting law enforcement officers from solely considering race, color, or national origin in implementing its provisions.

In fact, under my direction SB1070 was amended to strengthen and emphasize the importance that civil rights be protected.

Arizona is prepared to move forward – to enforce this law that we have fought so hard to defend -- ever mindful of our rights ...

Ever faithful to the Constitution ...

And ever worthy of the blessings God has given us, that we share together as Arizonans and as Americans.

Thank you, and I can now take your questions.